Investment by Foreign firms in power projects in Assam and N.E. Region

*340. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign firms have been permitted to invest for prospecting for power projects in the state of Assam and in other states of N.E. Region of the country;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith the names of the firms and the area earmarked for this purpose, District wise, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared these proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) . The Government has recently reviewed the existing guidelines for automatic approval for foreign equity for electric generation, . transmission and distribution projects, and has decided to enlarge the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. These guidelines apply equally to the whole of the country including Assam and the North-Eastern States. As per information available, no proposal has been received for permission to invest for prospecting for power projects in Assam and the North-Eastern States of the country nor has any such proposal been cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Airlink to Solapur (Maharashtra)

2481. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Solapur in Maharashtra, where a well maintained air-strip already exists which had earlier been operative, has also been or is proposed to be linked with Mumbai, Nagpur and other stations; and

(b) if so, since when, and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Vayudoot earlier started Dornier services between Mumbai and Solapur from 7th March, 1987 but these were discontinued in September, 89 due to shortage of aircraft capacity and inadequate load.

No scheduled airlines are operting any flight to/from Solapur.

The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to complaince of route dispersal guidelines.

पटना और सिलीगुडी विमानपत्तनों को अंतर्राष्ट्रिय विमानपत्तन का दर्जा

*2482. **श्री शिखू सोरेन**: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे की:

(क) क्या सरकार पटना और सिलीगुडी (बागडोगरा) विमानपत्तनों को अंतराष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन का दर्जा प्रदान करने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक:

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है; और